

**APR 21 2006****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Vargas, Jaime; et. al.  
Assignee: Cardica, Inc.  
Title: Tissue Punch  
Serial No.: 10/698,569                      Filing Date: October 31, 2003  
Examiner: Truong, Kevin Thao              Group Art Unit: 3734  
Docket No.: 147

April 21, 2006

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION****INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This communication is in response to the Office Action of March 24, 2006 ("Office Action").